

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 1, 2, and 4-11 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, 10 and 11 have been amended. Claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3, which was indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter.

Claim 11 has been rewritten into independent form to include the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 10. Claim 11 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to distinctly claim the subject matter. Claim 9 has been amended to overcome the rejection in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshihide et al, JP 2000-72048 in view of Takeshi, JP 6-136787. Claims 6-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshihide et al '048 in view of Takeshi '787 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lee, U.S. Patent No. 5,547,244.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 10 has been rendered moot by the amendment of claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 3 and the

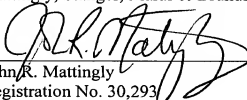
amendment of claim 11 into independent form. Accordingly, claims 1, 2 and 4-11 should be allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J.R. Mattingly", is written over a horizontal line.

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